

ADULT NON-FICTION

PROSE – ENGLISH PHILOSOPHY

SWA-PH1 United States 1956

ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE

SW – Non-Fiction – Philosophy

Scr: PLATO [from "The Republic," Part 7, Book 7]

Perf: Pearl C. **WILSON** (reader in Greek)

Prod: (?)

Prod. Co: Caedmon Records; New York, NY

Liner Notes: (46-page Booklet) Pearl C. Wilson
& Translations by F. Lucas, F. Cornford, & W. Cowper

Time: 12:02

LP: THE GOLDEN TREASURY OF GREEK POETRY AND PROSE

Caedmon TC 1034 (mono) (Two different covers)

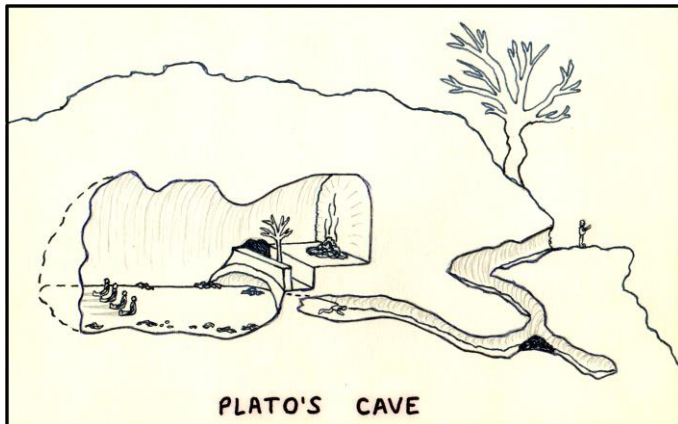
12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 8)

Notes: A reading of Plato's famous allegory in the original Ancient Greek.

Plato used this parable to demonstrate his philosophical thesis on the two Orders of Reality, namely, the changing physical world of sensation and opinion and the unchanging intelligible world of absolutes and pure knowledge. The progress of the mind from the lowest state of lack of enlightenment to knowledge of the Good. In the allegory, the people in the shadow-world of the cave are chained to their intellectual and moral illusions (they see only the shadow of the tree projected by the firelight on the cave wall). Whereas those who can make the difficult ascent to the sunlit world above attain a true idea of reality (see the real tree) and thus attain the supreme vision of philosophers. But his education is not complete until he accepts his responsibly to returns to the cave to live once again with the unenlightened.

The liner notes rephrase this – "Most men are chained in the prison of the senses and see only shadows and false images instead of what is real. The experience of one who is freed from these chains, led to the intellectual world, and compelled to face light and reality, is at first painfully dazzling. But by degrees, as the

result of great effort, he comes to behold the source of truth and reason, the cause of all that is beautiful and right."



Sketch by D. Brison from drawing by J. Legakes

An inserted 46-page booklet with the Greek text and English translations was provided with this LP. The liner notes tell us that – "It is possible for anyone having some slight acquaintance with the Greek alphabet to follow and understand the passages on this record with the aid of the interlinear translation here provided." However, many of the used copies of



B. HOLDRIDGE & M. RONEY

this LP that I have seen do not have the 46-page booklet (6x9 inches), probably because people would keep the booklet for their own library.

Regarding the reading the liner notes say – “Pronunciation of Greek in Homer’s time was very different from that of modern Greek today. Attempts to conform to what scholars know of about ancient ways of speaking have developed the pronunciation now used in American colleges and on this record; but institutions of learning have not yet altered their customs to conform with all the newest linguistic discoveries.”

Pearl C. Wilson taught Greek in the Department of Classics at Hunter College, City University of New York, from 1925 to her retirement in 1953. (Falk 1999) However, her thick American accent and intonations are somewhat of a drawback on this recording.

In the 20th century, Caedmon Records was undoubtedly the finest and most prodigious English language spoken word record company in the world. Numerous literary giants, renowned poets and authors, were recorded reading their own works. This pioneering company was founded in 1952 by two Hunter College graduates in the humanities with degrees in Greek, Barbara Cohen Holdridge and Marianne Roney (see photo), who had first met in a Greek class. (Anon.2002a) They both would have been in Pearl Wilson’s classes.

Ref: Anon. 2002a, Hunter Final New, @Hunter, Fall 2002, p. 8, google.fr

Anon. 2002b, Caedmon: Recreating the Moment of Inspiration, npr.org

Crane, Ralph & Fletcher, Lisa, *Cave: Nature and Culture*, Reaktion Books, London, p. 16

Falk, Julia 1999, *Women, Languages and Linguistics*, Routledge, NY, p. 198, (No longer available online)

The Golden Treasury of Greek Literature, Caedmon Records, 1956, Johns Hopkins Libraries, jhu.edu

Onion, Charlie 2002, Caedmon Spoken-Word Recordings Go Digital, thewag

Plato, Allegory of the Cave, Text in English, ship.edu

Plato, Allegory of the Cave, Synopsis, Wikipedia

Plato, Biography & Philosophy, Wikipedia

Plato; Translated by Cornford, Francis MacDonald 1945 (1959 ed.), *The Republic of Plato*, Oxford Univ. Press, New York, NY, p. 227-235

Plato; Translated by W.H.D. Rouse 1956, *Great Dialogues of Plato*, Mentor Book, The New American Library, New York, p. 314

SWA-PH2 United States 1964

OUR WORLD IS A CAVE

SW – Non-Fiction – Philosophy

Scr: Dr. Henry L. DRAKE [from "The Republic"
(Part 7, Book 7) by PLATO]

Mus. Comp: Fred KATZ

Perf: Sidney POITIER (reader)
(with jazz orchestra)

Mus. Cond: Fred Katz

Prod: Jackie Barnett

Prod. Co: Warner Brother Records

Time: 3:50

1. Original **LP:** POITIER MEETS PLATO
Warner Brothers W 1461 (mono)
12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 1)

2. Reissue **LP:** JOURNEYS INSIDE THE MIND (1970)
Warner Brothers W 1740 (mono)
Warner Brothers WS 1740 (stereo)
12" 33rpm

Notes: Poitier reads a condensed version of Plato's famous Allegory of the Cave, which has been interpreted and adopted for modern audiences. Modern jazz is played in the background.

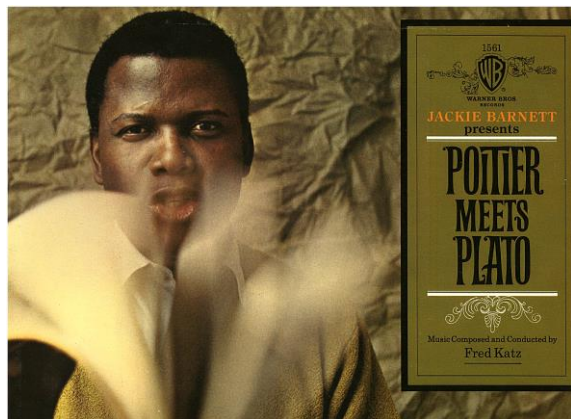
For a short summary of Plato’s Allegory of the Cave, see the above entry [SWA-PH1](#).

The title of this reading from Plato is loaded with profound implications for cavers. If, while living on our surface world, we are in a "cave" then what happens when we go into a real cave?

Ref: Journeys inside the Mind LP, [Discogs](#)

Plato, Allegory of the Cave, [Wikipedia](#)

Plato, Biography & Philosophy, [Wikipedia](#)



Plato; Translated by Cornford, Francis MacDonald 1945 (1959 ed.), *The Republic of Plato*, Oxford Univ. Press, New York, NY, p. 227-235

Plato; Translated by W.H.D. Rouse 1956, *Great Dialogues of Plato*, Mentor Book, The New American Library, New York, p. 314

Poitier Meets Plato LP, [Wikipedia](#)

Poitier Meets Plato LP, [worldcat](#)

Sidney Poitier, Biography, [Wikipedia](#)

Sidney Poitier, Our World Is a Cave, (3:55), [YouTube](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

caveinspiredmusic.com